



FWA
Family Water Alliance

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"Every Day is Earth Day on the Farm"

P. O. Box 365, Maxwell, California 95955

July 12, 2011

Joe Grindstaff
Delta Stewardship Council Executive Officer
980 Ninth Street, Ste. 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

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DELTA COUNCIL
MAILROOM
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Dear Mr. Grindstaff:

Family Water Alliance (FWA) is a non-profit grassroots voice for the protection of agriculture and we are proud to be celebrating our 20th anniversary this year. Since 1996, FWA has also run the Sacramento Valley Fish Screen Program that assists farmers and irrigation districts throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin River basins, Delta and their tributaries install state-of-the-art fish screens on their agricultural diversions.

The California Department of Fish and Game estimate that along the Sacramento River and Delta there are over 4,000 unscreened diversions. Our current grant that we are operating under has initiated biological assessments in an effort to gather data to quantify fish entrainment by small diversions. While we have only been monitoring for two full irrigation seasons, the data has shown that screening small diversions is a worthwhile investment.

FWA views fish screening as one of the solutions to fixing the Delta. While an effort to screen all diversions in the Delta would be cost prohibitive and take decades to accomplish, prioritizing screening efforts in the Delta should be part of the solution. The FWA Fish Screen Program has been successful because it is voluntary and most importantly cost effective. We have successfully screened 27 diversions along the Sacramento River and tributaries and are currently in the engineering and design phase to screen an additional 12 diversions by 2013.

Fish screening is widely accepted by the agricultural industry and we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss how fish screening can be part of the solution to solving the declining fish populations in the Delta. We would be more than willing to do a presentation on how the FWA Fish Screen Program can aid in the salmon recovery in the Delta. Please contact us at (530) 438-2026 or via email at aindrieri@frontiernet.net.

Sincerely,

Ashley Indrieri
Chief Operations Officer